

Message Text

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ACTION PPTE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 H-02 /004 W

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R 120324Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7466

UNCLAS MANILA 12867

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CPAS RP (STARKWEATHER, JOHN HENRY ABAIZ)

SUBJ: STARKWEATHER, JOHN HENRY ABAIZ

REF: STATE 215808 AND MANILA TWX TO DEPT 8/22/75

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED COPY OF APPARENT ARTICLE IN QUESTION, BY MISS BOULTINGHOUSE IN AUGUST 13 DAILY INDEPENDENT OF RIDGECREST, CAL. IT WAS SENT US BY SENATOR TUNNEY ON AUGUST 19 WITH REQUEST FOR INFORMATION. REPLY WAS SENT SENATOR ON AUGUST 28. SIGNIFICANT PORTIONS FOLLOW:

2. "I HAVE CHECKED PERSONALLY WITH OUR PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP UNIT AND FIND MANY ASPECTS OF THE CASE BOTH UNUSUAL AND PUZZLING. IN FACT, THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CHILD'S REGISTRATION WAS PRESENTED GAVE EVERY INDICATION THAT THE APPLICANT WAS PROBABLY NOT THE STARKWEATHERS' OWN CHILD. HIS FEATURES APPEARED, NOT ONLY TO ATTORNEY MENDOZA BUT ALSO TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE STAFF, TO BE PURELY MALAY. IT IS NOT SURPRISING, THEREFORE, THAT HE RESEMBLES HIS HALF-BROTHER, LITO, WHO IS OF PURE MALAY EXTRACTION.

"I AM SORRY THAT MR. AND MRS. STARKWEATHER FEEL THAT ATTORNEY MENDOZA OF OUR RESEARCH BRANCH WAS DISCOURTEOUS. ATTEMPTING TO RECONSTRUCT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEIR INTERVIEW WITH HIM, I CAN ONLY PRESUME THAT HE POINTED OUT THE DISCREPANCIES WHICH HAD THUS FAR BEEN DEVELOPED, AND OFFENSE WAS TAKEN.

"IN THE EXPERIENCE OF THE EMBASSY THUS FAR, EVERY CASE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH THE MOTHER IS ENTITLED TO FREE MILITARY MEDICAL

TREATMENT BUT ALSO DOES NOT AVAILA HERSELF OF THEM, THE CHILD WHOSE DOCUMENTATION AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN HAS BEEN SOUGHT HAS BEEN FOUND NOT TO BE THAT OF THE COUPLE BUT RATHER ONE WHO HAS BEEN INTRODUCED INTO THE FAMILY CIRCLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMMIGRATION INTO THE UNITED STATES OR BECAUSE THE COUPLE ARE UNABLE TO HAVE A CHILD OF THEIR OWN. IT WAS LEARNED THAT MRS. STARKWEATHER, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD NOT EVEN ONE APPOINTMENT FOR PRENATAL CONSULTATION AT THE SUBIC NAVAL BASE HOSPITAL. THE CHILD REPORTEDLY WAS DELIVERED BY AN UNLICENSED MIDWIFE BUT HIS BIRTH WAS REPORTED TO THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES BY MRS. STARKWEATHER, RATHER THAN THE MIDWIFE, FOURTEEN MONTHS AFTER THE EVENT.

"THERE ARE OTHER DISCREPANCIES IN THIS APPLICATION AS WELL, BUT ALONE FOR THE REASONS WHICH I HAVE DESCRIBED THE EMBASSY HAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE IDENTITY OF THE CHILD. THE INVESTIGATION, A TWO-PRONGED OPERATION, IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN SOUTHERN LEYTE BY THE CEBU CONSULATE, WHILE THE SECOND IS ON THE EMBASSY'S SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT TRIP TO THE OLONGAPO CITY AREA. THE CONSULATE IN CEBU HAS ONE INVESTIGATOR, RATHER THAN A STAFF OF THEM AS THE ARTICLE STATES, AND HIS TRAVEL IS GOVERNED BY THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND TIME, SINCE HE ALSO HAS OTHER IMPORTANT DUTIES. THE EMBASSY'S INVESTIGATION TEAM IS CURRENTLY ON A PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FIELD TRIP ELSEWHERE IN LUZON, AND AFTER THEIR RETURN NEXT WEEK THEY WILL BE EXPECTED TO PREPARE A DETAILED SUMMARY OF EACH CASE HANDLED. ONLY AFTER THIS HAS BEEN DONE WILL THEY BE FREE TO CONDUCT FURTHER INQUIRIES IN THE FIELD. I CAN ASSURE YOU, HOWEVER, THAT THE NEXT TRIP ON THEIR SCHEDULE IS TO OLONGAPO CITY AS WELL AS THE CLARK AIR BASE AREA, FOR THERE IS A VAST BACKLOG OF CASES WHICH HAS DEVELOPED IN JUST THESE TWO REGIONS."

3. ADDITIONAL DISCREPANCIES NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE OR IN REF TELEX INCLUDE; A) MOTHER ADMITTED HUSBAND HAD LOW SEMEN COUNT AND CHILD BORN FOUR YEARS AFTER MARRIAGE; B) APPLICATION NOT FILED FOR CHILD UNTIL ANOTHER FOURTEEN MONTHS AFTER BIRTH AND THEN ONLY ONE MONTH BEFORE SCHEDULED DEPARTURE FOR US; C) MOTHER WAS NOT SEEN PREGNANT IN OLONGAPO.

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4. ATTORNEY MENDOZA OFFERS THIS ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON CHARGE HE WAS "DISRESPECTFUL AND DISCOURTEOUS." HE NEVER SAID CHILD WAS NOT STARKWEATHERS', BUT RATHER POINTED UP DISCREPANCIES MENTIONED ABOVE AND IN REF TELEX AND SAID THAT DEPT. REGULATIONS REQUIRED US TO CHECK FURTHER WHEN IN DOUBT. HE SAYS ATMOSPHERE OF INTERVIEW WAS CORDIAL AND WHEN HE SAW MRS. STARKWEATHER LATER AT TIME SHE GOT HER VISA,

SHE GREETED HIM IN FRIENDLY MANNER.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE STRONG PROBABILITY STARKWEATHERS TRYING TO RAISE ISSUE OF "HUMAN INTEREST" IN ORDER TO PRESSURE DEPT AND CONSULAR OFFICERS INTO HASTY APPROVAL OF APPLICATION, FEARING MORE COMPLETE INVESTIGATION WILL SHOW CHILD IS NOT THEIRS. OLONGAPO INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE POSSIBLE AROUND END OF SEPTEMBER. SOUTHERN LEYTE CHECK MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE CEBU CONSULATE HAS ONLY ONE INVESTIGATOR AND BACKLOG OF MANY CASES SCATTERED OVER MANY SEPARATE ISLANDS. SOUTHERN LEYTE TRIP INVOLVES DIFFICULT SCHEDULE OF BOAT OR PLANE TRIP, THEN TRYING TO CATCH ONCE-A-DAY BUS ON LONG TRIP TO OTHER SIDE OF ISLAND.

CONGRESSMAN KETCHUM INTERESTED.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA12867
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750316-0100
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750958/aaaabzet.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PPTE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 215808
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STARKWEATHER, JOHN HENRY ABAIZ
TAGS: CPAS, RP, (STARKWEATHER, JOHN HENRY ABAIZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006